

List of Latin abbreviations

This is a **list of common Latin abbreviations**. Nearly all the abbreviations below have been adopted by Modern English. However, with some exceptions (for example, *versus* or *modus operandi*), most of the Latin referent words and phrases are perceived as foreign to English. In a few cases, English referents have replaced the original Latin ones (e.g., "rest in peace" for RIP and "post script" for PS).

Latin was once the universal academic language in Europe. From the 18th century authors started using their mother tongues to write books, papers or proceedings. Even when Latin fell out of use, many Latin abbreviations continued to be used due to their precise simplicity and Latin's status as a learned language.

In July 2016, the government of the United Kingdom announced that its websites would no longer use Latin abbreviations.^[1]

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List of common abbreviations

All abbreviations are given with full stops, although these are omitted or included as a personal preference in most situations.

Latin abbreviations

Abbreviation	Latin	Translation	Usage and notes
<u>AD</u>	<i><u>anno Domini</u></i>	"in the year of the Lord" ^[2]	Used to label or number years in the <u>Julian</u> and <u>Gregorian calendars</u> . The AD or the <u>Christian calendar era</u> is based on the traditionally reckoned year of the <u>conception</u> or <u>birth</u> of <u>Jesus of Nazareth</u> , with AD counting years after the start of this epoch, and BC denoting years before the start of the epoch. Example: <i>The United States Civil War began in AD 1861</i>
a.i.	<i><u>ad interim</u></i>	"temporarily"	Used in business organizational charts
<u>A.M.</u>	<i><u>ante meridiem</u></i>	"before midday" ^[2]	Used on the twelve-hour clock to indicate times during the morning. Example: <i>We will meet the mayor at 10 a.m. (10:00 in 24-hour clock)</i>
<u>c.</u> , <u>ca.</u> , <u>ca</u> or <u>cca.</u>	<i><u>circa</u></i>	"around", "about", "approximately" ^{[3][4]}	Used in dates to indicate approximately. Example: <i>The antique clock is from c.1900.</i>
Cap.	<i><u>capitulus</u></i>	"chapter"	Used before a chapter number of laws of the <u>United Kingdom</u> ^[5] and its former colonies. Example: <i>Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap. 553).</i>
<u>cf.</u>	<i><u>confer</u></i>	"bring together" and hence "compare"	<i>Confer</i> is the imperative of the Latin verb <i>conferre</i> . ^[4] Used interchangeably with "cp." in citations indicating the reader should compare a statement with that from the cited source. Example: <i>These results were similar to those obtained using different techniques (cf. Wilson, 1999 and Ansmann, 1992).</i> It is also widely used as an abbreviation for "see", although some styles recommend against such use.
cp.		<i>compare</i>	Used interchangeably with "cf." in citations indicating the reader should compare a statement with that from the cited source. Example: <i>These results were similar to those obtained using different techniques (cp. Wilson, 1999 and Ansmann, 1992).</i>
Cp	<i><u>ceteris paribus</u></i>	"all other things being equal"	Commonly used in economics, <i>ceteris paribus</i> allows for supply and demand models to reflect specific variables. If one assumes that the only thing changing is, say, the price of wheat, then demand and supply will both be affected appropriately. While this is simplification of actual dynamic market models, it makes learning economic theory easier.

Abbreviation	Latin	Translation	Usage and notes
<u>C.V.</u> , cv or CV	<u>curriculum vitae</u>	"course of life"	A document containing a summary or listing of relevant job experience and education. The exact usage of the term varies between British English and American English. The singular form is never <i>vita</i> . Curriculum is already singular, <i>vitae</i> is genitive from " <i>vita</i> ", i.e. "of life", despite the plural-appearing <i>vitae</i> modifier. The true plural is <i>curricula vitae</i> .
<u>cwt.</u>	<i>centum weight</i>	"Hundredweight" ^[2]	cwt. uses a mixture of Latin and English abbreviation.
D.V.	<u>Deo volente</u>	"God willing"	
DG, D.G. or DEI GRA	<u>Dei gratia</u>	"by the grace of God". ^[2]	A part of the monarch's title, it is found on all British and Canadian coins.
<u>ead.</u>	<u>eadem</u>	"the same (woman)"	see <i>id.</i> below.
<u>et al.</u>	<u>et alii</u> <u>et alia</u> <u>et alibi</u>	"and others", "and co-workers". ^[2] "and other things" "and other places"	Example: <i>These results agree with the ones published by Pelon et al. (2002).</i> "Etc." should not be used for people.
<u>etc.</u>	<u>et caetera</u>	"and the others", "and other things", "and the rest". ^[2]	Other archaic abbreviations include "&c.", "&c.", "&e.", "&ct.", and "&ca." Example: <i>I need to go to the store and buy some pie, milk, cheese, etc.</i> Because <i>cetera</i> implies inanimate objects, <i>et al.</i> is preferred when speaking of people.
<u>e.g.</u>	<u>exempli gratia</u>	"for example", "for instance". ^[2]	Introduces an example (as opposed to an explanation): <i>The shipping company instituted a surcharge on any items weighing over a ton; e.g., a car or truck.</i>
<u>fl.</u>	<u>floruit</u>	"flourished"	Followed by the dates during which the person, usually famous, was active and productive in his/her profession. Typically used when the person's dates of birth and death are unknown. ^[2]
<u>f.</u> (singular) <u>ff.</u> (plural)	<u>folio/foliis</u>	"and following"	This abbreviation is used in citations to indicate an unspecified number of pages following the specified page. Example: <i>see page 258ff.</i>
<u>ibid.</u>	<u>ibidem</u>	"in the same place (book, etc.)" ^[2]	The abbreviation is used in citations. It should not be confused with the following abbreviation.

Abbreviation	Latin	Translation	Usage and notes
<u>id.</u>	<i><u>idem</u></i>	"the same (man)". ^[2]	It is used to avoid repeating the name of a male author (in citations, footnotes, bibliographies, etc.) When quoting a female author, use the corresponding feminine form, <i>ead.</i> (<i>eadem</i>), "the same (woman)" (<i>eadem</i> is pronounced with stress on the first e-).
<u>i.a.</u>	<i><u>inter alia</u></i>	"among other things".	Example: <i>Ernest Hemingway—author (i.a. 'The Sun Also Rises') and friend.</i>
<u>i.e.</u>	<i><u>id est</u></i>	"that is", "in other words". ^[2]	Introduces an explanation (as opposed to an example): <i>For reasons not fully understood there is only a minor PSI contribution to the variable fluorescence emission of chloroplasts (Dau, 1994^[6]), i.e., the PSI fluorescence appears to be independent from the state of its reaction centre (Butler, 1978^[7]).</i>
J.D.	<i><u>Juris Doctor</u></i>	"doctor of law".	
lb. (singular) lbs. (plural)	<i><u>libra</u></i>	"scales"	Used to indicate the pound (mass). ^[2]
<u>LL.B.</u> or <u>LI.B.</u>	<i><u>Legum Baccalaureus</u></i>	"bachelor of laws"	The "LL." of the abbreviation for the degree is from the genitive plural <i>legum</i> (singular: <i>lex</i> or <i>legis</i> , for law), thus "LL.B." stands for Legum Baccalaureus in Latin. In the United States it was sometimes erroneously called "Bachelor of Legal Letters" to account for the double "L" (and therefore sometimes abbreviated as "L.L.B.").
<u>M.A.</u>	<i><u>Magister Artium</u></i>	" <u>Master of Arts</u> "	A postgraduate academic master degree awarded by universities in many countries. The degree is typically studied for in fine art, humanities, social science or theology and can be either fully taught, research-based, or a combination of the two.
M.O.	<i><u>modus operandi</u></i>	"method of operating"	Can refer to one's body of business practices. Also, in <u>criminology</u> , to refer to a criminal's method of operation.
N.B.	<i><u>nota bene</u></i>	"note well"	Some people use "Note" for the same purpose. ^[2] Usually written with <u>majuscule</u> (French upper case / 'capital') letters. Example: <i>N.B.</i> : <i>All the measurements have an accuracy of within 5% as they were calibrated according to the procedure described by Jackson (1989).</i>
<u>nem. con.</u>	<i><u>nemine contradicente</u></i>	"with no one speaking against"	The meaning is distinct from "unanimously"; "nem. con." simply means that nobody voted against. Thus there may have been abstentions from the vote.

Abbreviation	Latin	Translation	Usage and notes	
<u>op. cit.</u>	<i>opere citato</i>	"in the work cited"	Means in the same article, book or other reference work as was mentioned before. It is most often used in citations in a similar way to "ibid", though "ibid" would usually be followed by a <u>page number</u> .	
<u>p.a.</u>	<i>per annum</i>	"through a year"	Is used in the sense of "yearly". ^[2]	
<u>per cent.</u>	<i>per centum</i>	"for each one hundred"	Commonly "percent" in <u>American English</u> . ^[8]	
<u>Ph.D.</u>	<i>Philosophiae Doctor</i>	"Doctor of Philosophy"		
<u>P.M.</u>	<i>post meridiem</i>	"after midday"	Used on the <u>twelve-hour clock</u> to indicate times during the afternoon. Example: <i>We will meet the mayor at 2 P.M.</i> (14:00 in 24-hour clock)	
<u>p.m.a.</u>	<i>post mortem auctoris</i>	"after the author's death"		
<u>p.p. and per pro.</u>	<i>per procurationem</i>	"through the agency of"		
<u>PRN</u>	<i>pro re nata</i>	"before a thing is born"	"As used in standard medical jargon, PRN is understood to mean 'as needed'. This reading of the abbreviation implies that the delivery of the prescription (by a suitable person, following medications protocol) is done in a reactive, passive way, eg WHEN THAT HAPPENS, DO THIS. A more literal translation of the Latin is 'before a thing is born', which is an instruction to act pro-actively: eg BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, DO THIS . A prn medication delivery therefore properly done when a medic JUDGES that it should be done, in order to prevent a specified problem from occurring. Oversimplifying, a patient's breakfast could be written as a prn prescription: give this breakfast to that patient, to prevent that patient from experiencing hunger.	Used in <u>prescriptions</u>
<u>pro tem.</u>	<i>pro tempore</i>	"for the time being", "temporarily", "in place of"	^[2]	
<u>P.S.</u>	<i>post scriptum</i>	"after what has been written"	Used to indicate additions to a text after the signature of a letter. Example (in a letter format): <i>Sincerely,</i> <i>John Smith.</i> P.S. Tell mother I say hello!	
<u>P.P.S.</u>	<i>post post scriptum</i>		Used to indicate additions after a postscript. Sometimes extended to comical length with <i>P.P.P.S.</i> , <i>P.P.P.P.S.</i> , and so on.	
<u>Q.D.</u>	<i>quaque die</i>	"every day"	Used on <u>prescriptions</u> to indicate the medicine should be taken daily.	

Abbreviation	Latin	Translation	Usage and notes
<u>Q.E.D.</u>	<i>quod erat demonstrandum</i>	"which was to be demonstrated". ^[2]	Cited in many texts at the end of a mathematical proof. Example: <i>At the end of the long proof, the professor exclaimed "Q.E.D!"</i>
<u>q.v.</u>	<i>quod vide</i>	"which see"	Imperative, ^[2] used after a term or phrase that should be looked up elsewhere in the current document or book. For more than one term or phrase, the plural is <i>quae vide</i> (qq.v.).
Re	<i>in re</i>	"in the matter of", "concerning"	Often used to prefix the subject of traditional letters and memoranda. However, when used in an e-mail subject, there is evidence that it functions as an abbreviation of "reply" rather than the word meaning "in the matter of". Nominative case singular 'res' is the Latin equivalent of 'thing'; singular 're' is the ablative case required by 'in'. Some people believe that it is short for 'regarding', especially if it is followed by a colon (i.e., "Re:").
REG	<i>regina</i>	"queen"	A part of the monarch's title. It is found on all British coins minted during the reign of a monarch who is a queen. <i>Rex</i> , "king" (not an abbreviation) is used when the reigning monarch is a king.
r.	<i>regnavit</i>	"he/she reigned"	Often abbreviated as "r." followed by the dates during which the king or queen reigned/ruled, as opposed to the monarch's dates of birth and death. Often used parenthetically after the monarch's name.
R.I.P.	<i>requiescat in pace</i> <i>requiescant in pace</i>	"may he/she rest in peace" "may they rest in peace"	Used as a short prayer for a dead person, frequently found on tombstones. Some people believe that it stands for <i>rest in peace</i> . Example: <i>R.I.P.</i> , good grandmother.
s.a.	<i>sensu amplo</i>	"in a relaxed, generous (or 'ample') sense"	
s.l.	<i>sensu lato</i>	"in the wide or broad sense"	Example: <i>New Age s.l. has a strong American flavor influenced by Californian counterculture.</i>
s.s.	<i>sensu stricto</i>	"in the strict sense"	Example: <i>New Age s.s. refers to a spectrum of alternative communities in Europe and the United States in the 1970s.</i>
s.o.s.	<i>si opus sit</i>	"if there is need", "if occasion require", "if necessary" ^[9]	A prescription indication that the drug is to only be administered once.

Abbreviation	Latin	Translation	Usage and notes
Sic	<i>sic</i> or <i>sic erat scriptum</i>	"Thus it was written"	Often used when citing text, especially if the cited work has mistakes, to show that the mistake was in the original work and is not a misquote. <i>Sic</i> is often (mis)used as a sign of surprise or incredulity, or maliciously, to draw attention to an author's mistake.
stat.	<i>statim</i>	"immediately"	Often used in medical contexts. <i>Example: That patient needs attention, stat.!</i>
<u>viz.</u>	<i>videlicet</i>	"namely", "to wit", "precisely", "that is to say" ^[2]	In contradistinction to "i.e." and "e.g.", "viz." is used to indicate a detailed description of something stated before, and when it precedes a list of group members, it implies (near) completeness. Example: <i>The noble gases, viz. helium, neon, argon, xenon, krypton and radon, show a non-expected behaviour when exposed to this new element.</i>
<u>vs.</u> or v.	<i>versus</i>	"against"	Sometimes is not abbreviated. Example: <i>The next football game will be the Knights vs. the Sea Eagles.</i> In English law the v has no full stop (period) and is <i>never</i> vs and is never pronounced <i>versus</i> but rather as <i>and</i> Example: <i>R(egina) v Gadd</i> (a criminal case) which is pronounced as <i>The Crown and Gadd</i> . Similarly the film <i>Kramer vs. Kramer</i> is in England (at least to a lawyer): <i>Kramer and Kramer</i> although it would be written <i>Kramer v Kramer</i> . In Scots Law, the v is pronounced <i>against</i> . For example, <i>Donoghue v Stevenson</i> is pronounced <i>Donoghue against Stevenson</i> .

Less common abbreviations and usages

Words and abbreviations that have been in general use, but are currently used less often:

- a.C.n. = ante Christum natum = BC = before Christ
- ad. nat. delt. = ad naturam delineavit = he/she drew (this artwork) after nature
- AMDG (*Ad maiorem Dei gloriam* or *ad majorem Dei gloriam*): Latin - "For the greater glory of God". It is the motto of the Society of Jesus.
- a.u. (*anno urbis*): Latin for "The year of the city"^[3]

- a.U.c. (*ab Urbe condita* or *Anno Urbis conditae*): Latin for "from the foundation of the City":^[2] it refers to the founding of Rome, which occurred in 753 BC according to Livy's count. Used as a reference point in ancient Rome for establishing dates, before being supplanted by other systems. Also *anno Urbis conditae* (a.U.c.) ("in the year that the City [Rome] was founded"). For example, the year 2007 AD is the year 2761 *ab Urbe condita* (753 + 1 + 2007 = 2761); though, rigorously speaking, the year a.U.c. begins on April 21, the *birthday of Rome* (i.e. the day that Romulus was traditionally believed to have founded the Eternal City). (The reason for adding 1 to 753 is that the Romans counted dates "inclusively," i.e., including both the first and the last day or year in the count.)
- A.B. (*Artium Baccalaureus*), "Bachelor of Arts" (B.A., BA, or AB), is an undergraduate bachelor's degree awarded for either a course or a program in the liberal arts or the sciences, or both.
- Ben (*Benedictus*): "Blessed"
- *c̄* (*cum*): "with", usually found in medical shorthand.
- CC. (*Civis* in plural): Abbreviation for *Citizens* (plural of citizen). Usually found in legal documents in Civil law countries.
- D.D. (*Divinitatis Doctor*), "Doctor of Divinity" ^[8]
- D.Lit. or D.Litt. (*Doctor Litterarum*) or Lit.D. or Litt.D. (*Litterarum Doctor*), "Doctor of Literature" or "Doctor of Letters"^[8]
- D.M.D. (*Dentae Medicinae Doctor*), "Doctor of Dental Medicine"
- D.Phil. (*Doctor Philosophiæ*), "Doctor of Philosophy"
- Ed.D. (*Educationae Doctor*), "Doctor of Education"
- et seq. (*et sequens*), et seqq. or et sequa. (*et sequentes*, or *et sequentia*): "and the words, pages, etc. that follow" (use *et seqq.* or *et sequa.* if "the following" is plural). Used when referring the reader to a passage beginning in a certain place, and continuing, e.g. "p.6 et seqq." means "page 6 and the pages that follow".
- et ux. (*et uxor*): "and wife".
- dwt. (*denarius weight*):^[2] "Pennyweight". N.B. this is a mixture of Latin and English abbreviations.
- I.N.D.F.S.S.A (*In Nomine Dei/Domini Filii Spiriti Sancti Amen*): "In the name of the Lord, the Son and the Holy Spirit Amen" ^[10]
- F.D. or FID.DEF (*fidei defensor*), "defender of the faith." A part of the monarch's title, it is found on all British coins.
- in litt. (*in litteris*): Latin for "in a letter [or other documented correspondence]"; often followed by a date.
- inst. (*instante mense*): "this month" (see also *prox.* and *ult.*)
- L.I.D. (*Legum Doctor*), "Doctor of Laws"
- L.I.M. (*Legum Magister*), "Master of Laws"
- loq. (*loquitur*), "S/he speaks" ^[8]
- M.D. (*Medicinae Doctor*) or D.M. (*Doctor Medicinae*), "Doctor of Medicine"^[8]
- N.I.A ((In) *Nomine Iesus Amen*): "In the name of Jesus Amen"^[10]
- N.N. (*nomen nescio*): "I do not know the name": used as a placeholder for unknown names in e.g. the Book of Common Prayer.
- Nob. (*nobis*): "by us". Used in Latin descriptions of organisms, particularly plants, to indicate that a name is due to the author or authors.
- O.D. (*oculus dexter*): "the right eye". Used in vision correction prescriptions.
- O.D. (*Optometriae Doctor*), "Doctor of Optometry".
- O.S. (*oculus sinister*): "the left eye". Used in vision correction prescriptions.
- prox. (*proximo mense*): "next month" (see also *inst.* and *ult.*).^[2]
- r. (*rexit*): 'ruled'. Used for the time period of a monarch or other ruler's reign (e.g.: Mehmet III [r. 1595–1603])
- Q.D.B.V. ("quod deus bene vertat"): "May God look favourably on this," often on the title page of books.
- Q.E.C. (*quod erat construendum*): "which was to be constructed" (after constructing something, normally to show its existence)
- Q.E.F. (*quod erat faciendum*): "which was to be done"^[2]
- Q.E.I. (*quod erat inveniendum*): "which was to be found out", usually at the end of mathematical proofs.
- *s̄* (*sine*): "without", usually found in medical shorthand.
- S (*Sanctus/Salvator*): "Holy/Saviour"
- sc. (*scilicet*) means literally "one may know".^{[2][4]} Sometimes abbreviated *scil.* It is equivalent to the English phrase "to wit" and has virtually the same meaning as "videlicet" (literally, "one may see"), which is usually abbreviated as "viz." These expressions are not to be confused with "i.e." (id est), equivalent to "that is". Their meanings are similar, but there is a distinction which should be observed: "sc." and "viz." introduce a clarification; "i.e." introduces an equivalence.
- sec. (*secundum*) literally "second", "after" or "following",^[11] used in several related senses such as "in the sense of" or "in accordance with". For example in taxonomy "...sec. Smith..." typically would mean something like: "...in accordance with the ideas of Smith in this matter..."

- S.C.S (*Sanctus*): "Holy"^[10]
- S.C.S.D.X (*Sanctus Dominus Christus*): "Holy Lord Christ"^[10]
- S.D.X (*Sanctus Dominus Christus*): "Holy Lord Christ"^[10]
- S.D.I.X (*Salvator Dominus Iesus Christus*): "Saviour Lord Jesus Christ"^[10]
- S.J.D. (*Scientiae Juridicae Doctor*) or J.S.D. (*Juridicae Scientiae Doctor*), "Doctor of Juridical Science"
- Sc.D. (*Scientiae Doctor*) or D.Sc. (*Doctor Scientiae*), "Doctor of Science"
- sphalm. (*sphalma typographicum*): a misprint.
- S.P.D. (*salutem plurimam dicit*), sends many greetings, e.g. Areia S.P.D. Apollonio. (Areia sends many greetings to Apollonius)^[12]
- S.P.Q.R. (*Senatus Populusque Romanus*): "Senate and People of Rome"
- sqq. (*sequentia*): "the following ones": same as "ff", used for an unspecified number of pages following the one cited.
- S.T.T.L. (*sit tibi terra levis*) means "May the earth rest lightly on you" and was used in similar manner to R.I.P.
- s.v. (*sub verbo*): "Under the word or heading", as in a dictionary
- S.V.B.E.V. (*si vales bene est ego valeo*): "if you are well, it is good. I am well." Among the Romans, this was a traditional salutation at the beginning of a letter.
- Th.D. (*Theologiae Doctor*): "Doctor of Theology"
- ult. (*ultimo mense*): "last month" (see also *inst.* and *prox.*)^[2]
- u.s. (*ut supra*): "as above".
- V.C. (*vi coactus*): "constrained by force". Used when forced to sign ("or else ...")
- V.I. (*Venerate Iesum*): "Venerate Jesus"^[10]
- v.i. (*vide infra*) means "see below".
- v.s. (*vide supra*) means "see above".
- X (*Christus*): "Christ"

Used in biology

- aff. (*affinis*): having affinity with, similar but not identical to
- auct. (*auctorum*): of the authors, i.e. written like that by various authors
- Ca. (*Candidatus*): for candidate names of organisms that have not been completely accepted
- ex. (*exemplar*): example or specimen; plural abbreviated as exx.
- f. sp. (*forma specialis*): a special form adapted to a specific host; plural abbreviated as ff. spp.
- in coll. (*in collectionem*): in the collection, often followed by the name of a collection or museum
- indet. (*indeterminans*): undetermined, unidentified
- leg. (*legit*): he or she collected, often followed by the name of the collector
- nob. (*nobis*): by us, used to indicate that the writer(s) are the author(s) of a scientific name
- sp. (*species*): species (singular); plural also *species*, abbreviated as spp.
- sp. nov. (*species nova*): new species (singular); plural is *species novae*, abbreviated as spp. nov.
- ssp. (*subspecies*): subspecies (singular); plural is *subspecies*, abbreviated sspp.

See also

- Glossary of scientific naming#Latin abbreviations
- inter alios: Latin for "among others", i.e. people, or legal entities, but not an abbreviation.
- List of abbreviations used in medical prescriptions
- List of classical abbreviations
- List of ecclesiastical abbreviations
- List of Latin phrases
- per mille, Latin for "in each thousand", but not an abbreviation. May be seen abbreviated as *per mil.*
- sensu, Latin for 'in the sense of,' and used in biology for different groups of organisms
- sic, Latin for "thus", but not an abbreviation.
- stet, Latin for "let it stand", but not an abbreviation. Used in editing to indicate that something should remain as it is, and not be changed.

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